

PHILLY PLAYERS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE FOR INITIAL WESTERN INVASION THIS SEASON

PHILS' FIRST LONG ROAD SOJOURN WILL PROVE BIG FACTOR IN FLAG CHASE

Good Work on Foreign Fields, While Braves and Dodgers Fell Down, Last Year Enabled Moranmen to Clinch Pennant

AFTER the present series with Brooklyn on the home field, the league-leading Phils will make their first Western trip and also visit Boston and Brooklyn in the East before returning home.

The Phillies are in wonderful shape for the trip. Manager Moran has eight pitchers who are going at top form, and there is no danger of any of his hurlers being overworked.

Critics are almost unanimous in the opinion that the National League pennant will be won by an Eastern team, but until the East has proved its superiority over the West there is absolutely no way to get a line on the relative strength of the teams of each section.

There are two other Western teams capable of sticking in the fight if their pitchers show as well as expected. These teams are the Reds and Cardinals. Both have strong pitching material, but to date the hurlers have shown only an occasional flash.

Phil's Have Little to Fear if They Maintain Present Form If the Phillies can play the same intelligent brand of ball they exhibited against the Braves and Giants here, then they have little to fear on the first swing about the circuit.

Brooklyn, which is here for the first series, is an aggregation which may upset the dope. Barring pitching, the Dodgers have as strong a team as there is in either major league.

Miserable weather has handicapped the Dodgers a great deal since returning from Daytona. The pitching staff is composed principally of veterans and they have found it impossible to get into shape with rain interfering every other day.

Red Sox Got the Breaks in Final Game The Red Sox stopped the winning streak of the Athletics in the final game of the series, but the world's champions had a hard battle all the way.

The Athletics made just as many hits as the world's champions, fielded better and the pitching was just as good, but all the breaks went to Carrigan's team and they tallied four runs, while Leonard blanked the Mackmen for the first time this season.

Umpiring which the fans thought was very much off color also aided the world's champions. Boston's first two runs off Crowell would not have resulted if Duffy Lewis had been called out on strikes as he should have been.

Macks Could Not Bring Runners Over As the game turned out, these two runs were not needed to clinch the victory, as two more were tallied later, but the whole game would have been changed if the Athletics had been on even terms when they started to get to Leonard.

The most encouraging features of the game from a local standpoint was the splendid pitching of "M" Crowell and Charley Pick's brilliant all-round work. Crowell had a world of stuff and would have won under ordinary conditions.

Pick is Improving Rapidly Pick continues to improve at third, and Mack's collegians who are due to fight the Richmond lad for the position later in the summer are going to have a hard time dislodging him.

Indoor Collegiate Championships Evenly Divided The Navy's winning of the intercollegiate fencing championship last week ends the indoor athletic season with the widest distribution of championship honors in many years.

Los Angeles fans agree that pride goeth before a fall. Frank Chance, formerly known as the "peerless leader," returned to the game to manage Los Angeles and got off to a flying start.

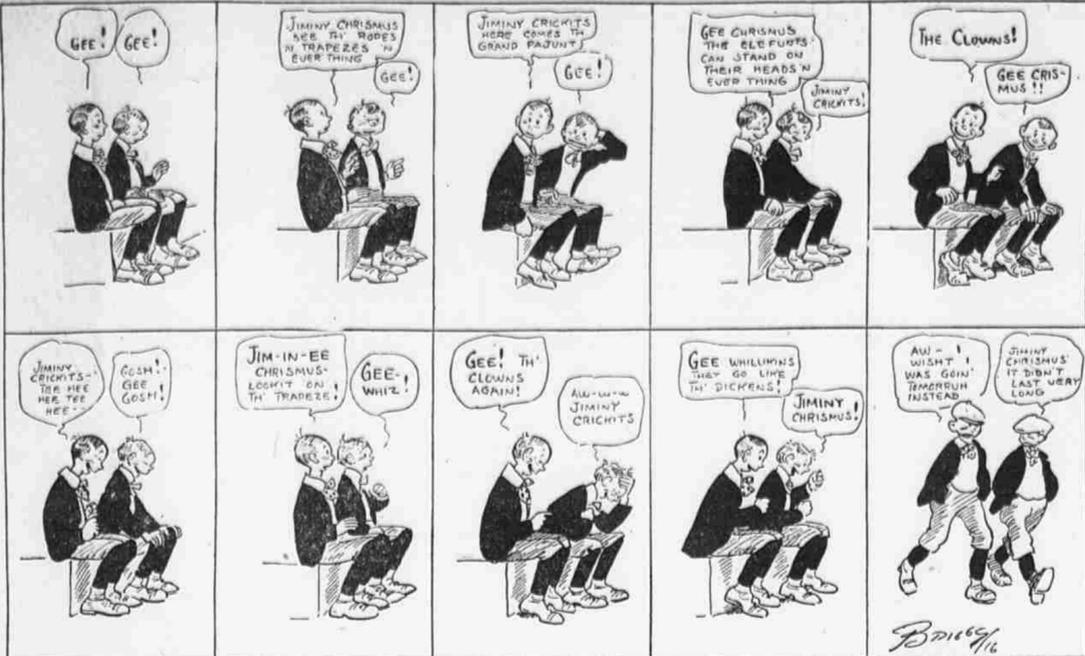
Western teams of the American League object to the "riding" methods of the St. Louis Browns, and there may be some lively doings one of these days when Fielder Jones' team is playing the Tigers in Detroit.

The Southern League has broken away from the old rule which prohibits double-headers until after the first swing around the circuit.

Harry Hillman has just signed a five-year contract as director of physical education at the University of Pennsylvania.

Searchers picked up an excellent shortstop in Hood, the former Princeton Central star, who with Maxfield, is being tried by the Lafayette Hotel.

MOVIE OF TWO BOYS AT THE CIRCUS



NUNAN WINS FOR UPPER DARBY BY STEALING HOME

Breaks 4-4 Deadlock With Catholic High Nine in Tenth Inning

OTHER SCHOOL GOSSIP

Upper Darby High has a variety of plays for winning baseball games—and sometimes can "get away with it."

Catholic High took the lead with two runs in the first inning. It was nip and tuck until the eighth when Catholic High scored the necessary run to cause a deadlock, 4 to 4.

Nunan watched his chance and when the opportunity came he stole home, winning the game for his team, 5 to 4.

With Pennock, Myers, Gummy, Steele and Grove, the "Yellow" team defeated the Episcopal Academy Juniors at Queen Lane yesterday, 3 to 1.

Members of the School of Pedagogy, led by their instructor in general all-round work, when Penn Charter defeated the future teachers by a tally of 11 to 4.

Every afternoon this week will see important league baseball games and indoor sports. The interest of the local athletes.

Northeast High's 44 to 37 victory over South Philadelphia in the track meet, held yesterday, came more or less as a surprise.

Billy Moore is running better than ever this season, and the "Big" leader has vision of winning the quarter-mile championship in the intercollegiate.

Davy, the Princeton high jumper, is a lad who will bear watching this spring. Of course, with Richards and one still in harness, he cannot expect to win the intercollegiate high jump title.

Archie Mueck, the Wisconsin weight thrower, will be at the Penn relay. He is the biggest fellow in athletic today, weighing 285 pounds and towering 8 ft. 3 in., and he is about the best weight thrower in the land.

In Hottelock, Pennsylvania has a freshman sprinter who has entered Penn in some days.

Oscar Gurney has succeeded Professor Nunnally as the coach of the Northeast High team in the course of time.

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THIRD BASE THE MOST DIFFICULT TO PLAY ON ANY BASEBALL CLUB

Devlin, Jimmy Collins and Bradley Our Great Third Basemen in Game During Past Sixteen Years, Declares Rice

By GRANTLAND RICE

WHAT is the toughest job on a ball club? We put the query in this fashion so that we can be allowed to interpret the answer without any undue waste of time.

The answer is simple enough: "Third base." The proof here is simple enough. In the last 20 years the game is fairly bubbling with grand outfielders—Speaker, Cobb, Doolin, Kelley, Burns, etc., etc.

There have been all the great shortstops you want—Wagner, Tinker, Maranville, Bush, Long and a half dozen others. But since 1900 there have been just three great third basemen that we can think of now—three, that is, who stand out above the field—Jimmy Collins, Art Devlin and Bill Bradley.

A Reason or So Dealing information as to why third base should be so hard to play, we put the query up to Art Devlin, the old Giant star.

"At second and short," said Devlin, "you don't have to do much guessing or planning. You stand back on the grass and then play the ball as it comes. At third you are planning and guessing all the time.

"I tell you one queer turn in my work at third," Devlin added. "I played against Hans Wagner for ten years, more than 200 games, and in all that time he never tried to hit against me. Yet I had to watch him all the time, fearing he would cross me. One day I guessed wrong. I was sure he was going to bunt; I saw him start the motion and I rushed in. He hit one through me so fast I haven't seen it yet. After that I decided to let him bunt out a bunt before I came in again, but he never out one down my way, although he is a fine bunter."

The report is abroad that Mr. Carl Morris of Scouppin is about to be one of the entries in a \$10,000 match. The birth rate isn't one for every minute, as suggested, but about six for every second.

We have heard any number of discussions as to what sort of a third baseman Baker was and is. He was and is the greatest hitting third baseman of them all. As a fielder he has been good, but a poor infielder is all blank.

Just what Benjamin Michael Kauff will do later on is only a fit subject for the box scores. But at the end of the first 10 days' work Mr. Kauff was able to report 18 trips to the plate for seven hits and an average of .370.

As a good running start was supposed to be of great value in his peculiar case, those who have bet money that he wouldn't bat .300 on the year may soon desire to hedge for a kopek or so.

No one picked the Phillies to win last season, and we have heard of no one picking them for the present campaign. Yet they lost no great time hustling back to the perch they occupied last October.

Sam Crawford, Detroit's clean-up right fielder, is still out of the Tigers' line-up because of illness.

Crawford Still Ill; Cobb Recovers DETROIT, Mich., April 25.—President Navin, of the Detroit baseball club, has announced that Sam Crawford, who has been on the sick list, would not accompany the Tigers to Cuba, who also has been out of the game for several days because of a severe cold.

GOYCH NO MATCH FOR JOE STECHER; SHOULD RETIRE

Champion Wrestler Now Is 35 Years Old and 'Rusty' Because of Idleness

MORE KNOCKS FOR WELSH

It would seem that the wisest course for Frank Gotch to pursue is to remain in retirement as far as a wrestling match with Joe Stecher is concerned.

Gotch is 35 years old, far beyond his wrestling prime, and "rusty" because of years of idleness. Stecher is 22, in the full bloom of his young manhood, and practically at the crest of his meteoric career.

By remaining in retirement, Gotch retains during all the rest of his days the glory that belongs to an undefeated champion—and Stecher is today the strongest foe pitted against him before a cage came on.

Gotch Isn't After Coin No one justly would accuse Gotch of displaying a white feather by refusing to meet Stecher now. His alibi is good. He's beyond his prime and out of wrestling condition.

Yes, Gotch would gain \$25,000 or so by grappling with Stecher. But Gotch isn't money mad. \$25,000 doesn't mean much to him now. He's worth upward of \$200,000. What is \$25,000 to him compared with the probable loss of his priceless treasure—the championship?

As to Fred Welsh Freddie Welsh announces that he will retire as champion on July 7, 1917. Welsh may do it—and he may not. It all depends upon whether or not he tries conclusions over the decision made at one of the topnotch lightweights in the game today.

The day that Welsh willingly risks his title in a long boxing bout is the day that he will retire as champion. He has gone back so far during the last two years that any one of the three leading lightweights—Benny Leonard, Johnny Dundee and Charlie White—can beat him decisively in 20 rounds.

The chances of Welsh being knocked out in five or eight years ago, he declared more than a year ago almost nil. The Welshman has a perfect defense for his chin and a body that can stand up pretty well under a fusillade of blows.

And that's why Welsh has been able to pick up lots of soft money during the last year or so, by mingling in scores of short bouts without being knocked out.

Shake-up in Harvard Varsity Crew CAMBRIDGE, Mass., April 25.—A shake-up in Harvard's varsity rowing squad, following the defeat of the senior eight by Princeton, has resulted in changes in the crews.

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CADDY PROBLEM TO BE HANDLED BY GOLF BODY

Local Association Wants Standard System—Fees Make Trouble

"BENNY" SAYERS COMING

This season it'll all be settled. Officials of the Philadelphia Golf Association say so, referring to the small matter of caddies and their fees. Several schemes have been proposed to relieve the scarcity or congestion of caddies, to fix the scale of wages and otherwise attack the caddy problem.

All the ideas plotted so far in the sessions of the august body have had the suggestion that caddies come under the direct supervision of the P. G. A. Caddies would pursue their calling on local links, would have to be hired and assigned by the central body. This radical plan would present plenty of room for the industry of one who would be how to keep the pay down and the efficiency up.

The older the boys get and the more they grasp the idea of caddying the more they resist the suggestion. It is with the idea of establishing classes according to efficiency and fixing a permanent as well as standard pay scale that the P. G. A. is at present wrangling its brow.

"The objection to handling the boys under the same scale is that some of the clubs have to offer extra inducement, according to the present system, to get caddies," was the opinion of Francis E. Warner, secretary of the P. G. A. association. "Philmont says about the highest rate for the reason that there isn't any town there to draw boys from. It has to offer an extra inducement to get boys from the nearby towns. There are several clubs that may be grouped together because they lie in one section, as for instance, Philmont, Huntingdon Valley and Old York Road. This grouping may solve our troubles."

The possibility of establishing outlying "caddy centres" and parceling out caddies from them to points where needed has been discussed.

Indoor Golf Over

Bouncing the ball on green carpets with a roof overhead has been abandoned entirely for the outdoor game. Golfers have sent the indoor variety to get boys from the greenward at their clubs show verdant and elegant for brassie shots. It's all right to fuss around with a nibble in the early morning, but serious golfers, both men and women, prefer the outdoor species even when the ice and snow make necessary the use of a red ball and large woolen mittens. There is something about cracking a ball into space that is deplorably lacking in masha over the imitation hurdles and "play" water hazards.

Ben Nichols, a character of no small standing in local golf, has picked up his trappings and gone to Long Island, near Brother Gill, where he will take up his warm weather quarters. He conducted a successful school of golf at Snellenburg's during the winter. The Gimbel Indoor course, which was the most elaborate here, and the only one that was in any sense an attempt at a regular course, has been rooted out to make way for merchandise.

Whitemarsh Change

The Greens Committee at Whitemarsh has finally heard the despairing cries of golfers as they stood on the ninth tee and gazed in the general direction of the green, which they saw not, neither did they find most of the time. The result is that this year the green has been raised and is no more in the nature of a blind hole. Golfers sigh with relief as they see the pin at which they are alleged to be aiming. Many plaudits for the Greens Committee.

Benny Sayers En Route

The "daddy of 'em all" is on his way over the bounding main from London to this country in the shape of Benny Sayers, beloved and ancient pro, tutor of royalty and otherwise famous in golfing circles wherever the terms are spoken. "Benny" is bringing Mrs. Sayers also. They will land in New York in a few days and will hustle to this city and Merion, where in 200 George as pro there. "Benny" Sayers is coming over from North Berwick to take in the amateur championship, which is to be held at Merion in September. In the meantime he will likely assist George Sayers at Merion and renew old friendships.

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